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Landmark Report (Vol. 24, no. 3)

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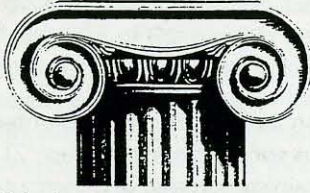


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"A future with a past"

LANDMARK REPORT

VOLUME XXIV, NUMBER 3

LANDMARK ASSOCIATION OF BG/WC

APRIL 2005

THE LANDMARK ASSOCIATION INVITES YOU TO HEAR

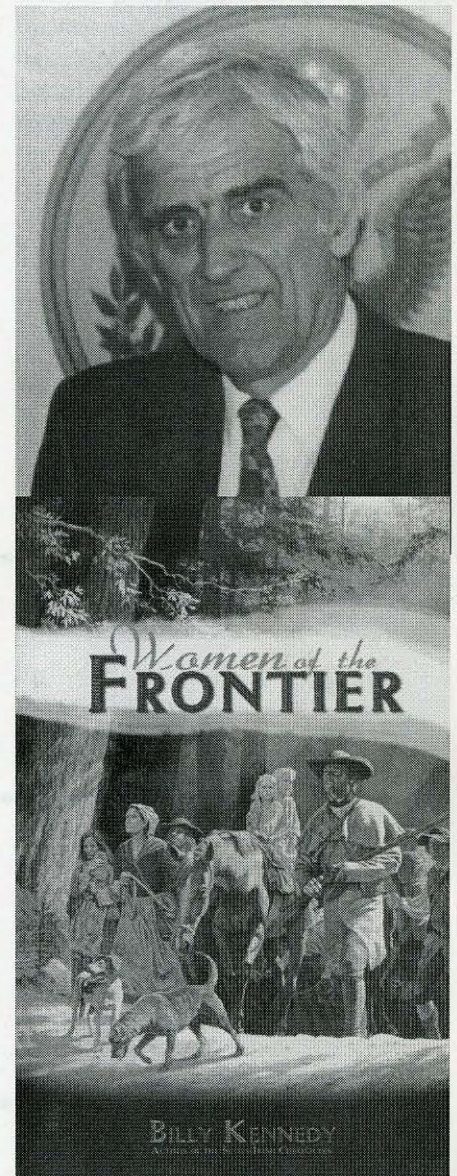
Noted Irish Journalist and Author
Billy Kennedy discuss

Women of the Frontier in America
With Particular Emphasis on the
Scots-Irish Influence

Sunday, April 10, 2005

2:30 p.m.

Pioneer Log House
behind the Kentucky Building
Free Admission
Plenty of Parking Available



Kennedy's new book *Women of the Frontier* will be available for purchase and the author will sign copies
Kennedy hails from Belfast and you will enjoy his energy and knowledge as well as his Irish lilt

The Landmark Association of Bowling Green-Warren County

A non-profit organization established in 1976 as a community advocate for preservation, protection and maintenance of architectural, cultural and archaeological resources in Bowling Green and Warren County.

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Architectural Details

- The Landmark Association has several important items on its wish list: 1) a volunteer coordinator, who can help get our membership involved in some of our activities; 2) a grant facilitator, who can help the Association write and administer grants; 3) a computer that is less than two years old, so we can convert to more modern technology in our office. Since we're asking, we always need more members too. Ask your friends, neighbors, colleagues, and acquaintances to become a part of the preservation movement in Bowling Green.
- The Historic Preservation Board is offering another Cemetery Documentation Workshop on Friday, April 16th, from 1:00 to 3:30 p.m. The workshop will take place at the Heritage Missionary Baptist Church, near Woodburn. This workshop provides training for volunteers who want to participate in the Warren County Cemetery Documentation Project. The project is a terrific opportunity for families, church groups or social organizations, as well as interested individuals, to learn a little local history and enjoy our beautiful countryside. In the workshop, participants will learn: how to read lichen covered and worn monuments without causing further damage; how to identify the most common stone materials and their critical differences, how to identify the major types of monuments found in most cemeteries, and how to complete accurate transcriptions and state forms. Trained volunteers will be able to document a cemetery in which they have always been interested or have one assigned to them. Volunteers will be loaned some of the necessary tools including a helpful manual that they can keep, but will also need to provide a few simple items to complete this project. For information about workshops or to schedule an additional workshop at your cemetery, contact Robin Zeigler at 842-1953 or robin.zeigler@bgky.org. Directions and a "what to bring" list will be provided upon registration. To register contact Community Education at 270-842-4281 or 270-842-0554 (FAX) or www.bgwc-commmed.org. Cost of the workshop is only \$5.
- It is not too late to become a sponsor of Insight Communication and the Historic Preservation Board's television show, "Warren County Preserves." The program is about historic preservation issues and local history and airs on Insight's cable channel 5, each year from May through November. One commercial spot is \$250 or a title sponsorship is \$1000 per episode and includes four thirty-second commercials and the company's name as part of the title. For more information, contact Robin Zeigler at 842-1953 or robin.zeigler@bgky.org.
- The 2005 International Heritage Development Conference, to be held in Nashville, June 4-8, 2005, will include a session in Bowling Green. Heritage Development is a growing industry across the United States that incorporates public/private partnerships that focus attention, resources, and strategies on enhancing national, state, regional and local heritage. The conference will focus on interactive conference sessions and workshops with heritage development professionals, local historic resource stakeholders, economic development professionals, chambers of commerce, planners, park agencies, non-profit organizations, and elected officials. For more information visit <http://ihdc2005.org>.
- July is Civil War month in Bowling Green. Look for the new brochure, "Civil War Discovery Trail in Bowling Green, Kentucky," partially funded by Landmark Association. Lost River Cave will sponsor the month's kick-off event. Also, visit Lost River Cave from July 18-24 for Civil War "living history" tours. If you are a Civil War reenactor interested in taking part, contact Christian at 393-0077.

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The Bowling Green Lyceum by Jonathan Jeffrey

By the 1840s, Bowling Green was moving out of the pioneer period and some of its more refined and educated citizens were clamoring for intellectual stimulation. The city did have several newspapers in the 1840s, including the *Green River Gazette*, but we have little other documentation about what local citizens did to expand their minds. Churches were active and provided an impetus for some intellectual activity, and the city did boast several fledgling private schools for young people. Still there was little available for adult mental stimulation besides reading. A movement began in the 1830s to establish a library in Bowling Green, and the institution was incorporated by an act of the General Assembly in 1838. The legislation indicates that the stockholders had "purchased valuable books" and planned to purchase a building for them, but no other evidence has been located which indicates that the library got beyond the piece of paper legitimizing it. Another intellectual movement that did indeed reach fruition was something known as the Bowling Green Lyceum. Small bits of information about this organization are included in a small journal (housed in the Filson Club in Louisville) kept by Lemuel Porter, a Bowling Green physician. He was born near Scottsville and was an 1833 graduate of the Medical Department of Transylvania University.

The lyceum was a school founded by the Greek philosopher Aristotle in 335 B.C. It was located outside the walls of Athens along the Ilissus River. It stood near Athens, in a grove sacred to the god Apollo Lykeios (also spelled Lyceus), for whom it was named. Students and teachers at the Lyceum pursued higher learning through lectures, discussions, and research, and it was purported to have one of the world's first libraries. Josiah Holbrook, of Millbury, Massachusetts, initiated the lyceum movement in the United States in 1826. The movement attempted to improve schools, bring about better teacher preparation,

establish libraries and museums, provide lectures and debates, and improve American culture.

Porter's journal contains a number of references to the Bowling Green Lyceum, a fraternal group that met to discuss both current and historical events. The group always held a debate at its meetings which was occasionally preceded by a lecture delivered by a member or by an invited guest. The exact date of the group's origin is unknown. The by-laws for the organization are outlined in the journal, but they are not dated. There are cursory notes about meetings beginning in January 1846 and running until March 1847. The group met in "Lyceum Hall", the location of which is unknown. At one meeting, it was noted that the group was meeting in the basement room of the Presbyterian Church on Wednesday nights at 7:00 p.m. and that the initiation fee was twenty-five cents. It would not be unusual for a fraternal group to own a building, but there are no deeds listed for the Lyceum or to Trustees of such an organization. There are also no incorporation papers for the Bowling Green Lyceum either in Warren County court records or in the General Assembly. The hall may have been in one of Bowling Green's hotels or may have been the Presbyterian Church basement, which also served as a school. A Young Men's Lyceum was referenced several times in the minutes and apparently was sponsored by the older group. Members of the younger group were frequent guests at Lyceum meetings. Besides weekly meetings, the gentlemen occasionally sponsored special events such as a reading of General Washington's farewell address which was performed on February 22, 1847 at the Presbyterian Church. The program also included a time of prayer and a vocal and instrumental interlude.

The undated by-laws include some information about how meetings were conducted. All members were to be decorous in their conduct. The first

section of the by-laws declared: "Any member of this society shall be fined for disorderly conduct whenever a majority of the members present, at any regular meeting, may deem [it] necessary; and if such disorderly member refuse to pay his fine he shall be expelled [from] the society, provided the members present at any regular meeting desire it." In addition members were not allowed to monopolize a debate. The by-laws stipulated that "no member shall be allowed to speak more than twice on the same subject; and then not longer than 30 minutes each time." It appears clear that the meetings could be lengthy. To continue to avoid duplicity, the by-laws further outlined that debaters "shall be appointed in rotation, so that no one member shall be appointed more times than another, unless by permission of the President."

Debate questions were selected by a three member committee, and they were quite diverse but generally related to social and political issues at the local, state and national level. The men debated such topics as: Would it be politic to extend the right of suffrage to females, has the invention by which steam has been applied to machinery benefited the human family, is man a free moral agent, do signs of the times indicate the perpetuation of this government, was it a good idea for the Legislature of Kentucky to pass the bill providing for the protection of the property of females, are the diversities of individual character attributable more to physical than moral causes, did the Trustees of the town of Bowling Green act politic in licensing a coffee house in said town, is the present war with Mexico just and politic on the part of the United States, should every government have an established religion, should the constitution of Kentucky be amended, is the advancement of civil liberty more indebted to intellectual culture than to physical suffering, should a minister of

continued on page 4

The Bowling Green Lyceum (cont'd)

the Gospel be proscribed from holding a civil office because of his profession or calling?

No other known documentation exists about the Bowling Green Lyceum at this time. We don't know how long the organization lasted or about other projects or debates sponsored by the group. The group was a direct outgrowth of a national movement. In the 1880s when Chautauquas became the rage in adult education, a Bowling Green Lecture Association organized. These open-air meetings were quite popular annual events in our city.

The known members of the Bowling Green Lyceum were: Lemuel C. Porter, William P. Jones, Samuel A. Atchison,

R.J. Smith, W.J. Townsend, C.D. Morehead, C.M. Briggs, H.G. Smith, F. Jones, John B. Alexander, E. Underwood, Dr. Withers, W.G. Hatcher, William Payne, G. Heritage, Mr. McGhee, Mr. Grider, C.B. Donaldson, William D. Harlow, J. Shields, B.B. Roberts, P.B. Hawkins, Robert Harlow, J.C. Wilkins, J.M. Jeffries, Charles P. McCrohan, C.A. Leuthstrouer, T.B. Frazer, Isaac Reese, Samuel Stevenson, J.M. Pendleton, Charles E. Wintersmith, J.D. Blackford, G. Cool, F.H. Underwood, C.E. Blewett, Colonel C.W. Hutchens, Judge Asher Graham, H. Briggs, T.A. Atchison, J.B. Wood, John B. Helm, James Moore, Warner Lewis Underwood.

Architectural Details (cont'd)

- The Kentucky Heritage Council is registering war related memorials throughout the state. Listing will provide some protection for these sites, whether they are sculpture, plaques, bridges, etc. If you know of a memorial that you would like to nominate, please contact Robin Zeigler at 842-1953 or robin.zeigler@bgky.org for an application.
- Twelve interested individuals trooped with us south for the Nashville Ramble in March. We are planning a summer ramble to Frankfort and a fall ramble to New Albany, Indiana and Louisville. This is a great way to see how other communities are handling preservation issues and to see some great projects. In Nashville, Mancil Ezell, led us on an architectural tour of the Frist Center for the Visual Arts. This fantastic exhibition facility is really a massive adaptive re-use project, as the building formerly served as Nashville's downtown post office. Afterwards we had an enlightening trek through the Belmont Mansion.
- Our annual meeting will take place at the Presbyterian Church on Thursday, May 19. Landmark member, Thomas N. Moody, will give us a historical tour of the building and will give us a brief organ concert in the sanctuary. The Presbyterians inhabit the oldest church in the city, dating from the 1830s. In 2002 Mr. Moody donated an interesting 1854 broadside to the Kentucky Library which announced that a cholera epidemic was ravaging Bowling Green. As a postscript the printer noted: "We are requested to state that the Ladies of the Presbyterian Church have deferred their Fair until next fall." Cholera got the best of the Presbyterian ladies that summer, but the Landmark Association will be welcomed with open arms in May. Our pre-dinner reception will be held at Eclectic Style on Fountain Square and hosted by Mark Hood and Cathi Munisteri.

Spring Calendar

APRIL 10

2:30

Lecture by Billy Kennedy,
Irish Journalist

APRIL 17

2:30

St. Joseph Cemetery Tour

APRIL 23

10:00

College Hill Tour

MAY 7

10:00

Wildflower tour at Cedar Sink,
Mammoth Cave led by Ellen
Micheletti; lunch afterwards at
Pig for those who don't need to
get back to the horses.

MAY 15

2:30

Fountain Square Tour

MAY 19

6:00

Annual Meeting

For information about any
of our events, please contact
the Landmark office
at 782-0037.

Leave a message,
and we will get back to you.

Photo Leads to Interesting Information by Jonathan Jeffrey

Doing reference work may sometimes be frustrating, but it is always interesting. This past summer I received the following e-mail from Lori Newton with this photo attached: "Looking for information on the father and mother of George Washington Newton. His father designed a lot of buildings in Bowling Green. George Washington Newton was a pharmacist. Can you please help? I just received a photo of George's father and mother and I am trying to put names and any other information with it." Because I was not familiar with any Newtons that were builders in Bowling Green's past, I e-mailed Lori back and asked if she knew for sure if the family had lived in Kentucky. Could it have been Virginia or Ohio? She quickly replied that it was indeed Kentucky. She said the back of the photo noted that "he was involved in building and design of some of the buildings in Bowling Green." This certainly piqued my interest. She further explained that George Washington Newton eventually moved to Beaver Dam and established a successful drugstore and that he had attended college in Bowling Green. Her chief goal was to find the name of George Washington Newton's parents. I wanted to know their names and what buildings he had designed. I was never able to answer the later question, but I did find out something about this ante bellum master carpenter or architect.

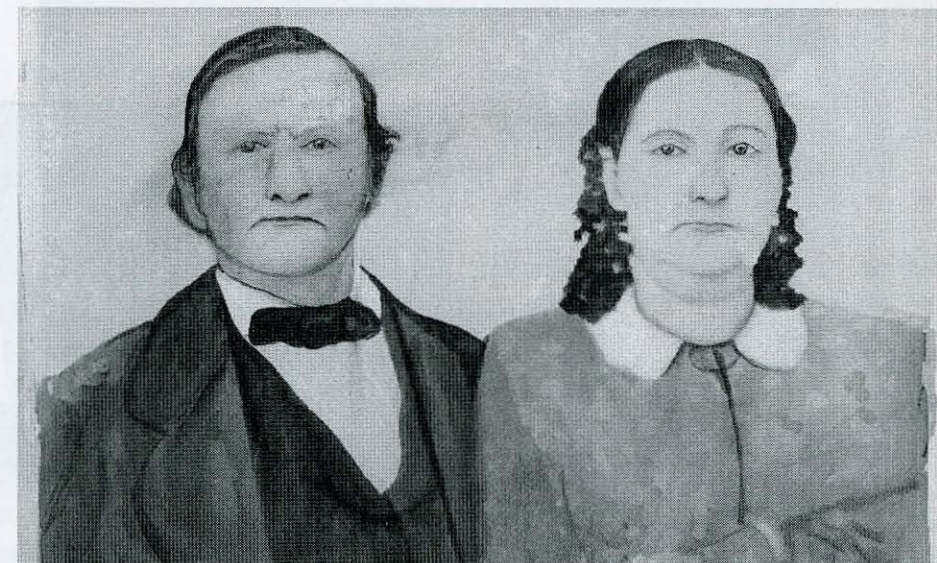
Looking at the photograph I assumed it was one that was later touched up with paint—watercolors or sometimes called washes—and ink, and I judged that it was probably taken in the 1860s or early 1870s. These larger photos or cabinet cards were quite popular in that time period. Next, I went to the 1850 United States census for Warren County. The index indicated several Newtons, and I soon found a George Newton living in a large Bowling Green household. The parents' names were Hiram and Caroline Newton, and they hailed from Massachusetts. Hiram was 58 years old and the value of his real estate was \$6,000 and the value of his

personal property was \$1,000. His profession is listed as carpenter. Before the field of architecture developed the role of architects. Many carpenters possessed consummate design skills and were many times referred to as master builders. The other Newtons in the household and their ages were: James (23) who was also a carpenter, Fannie (19), John (17) who is listed as a farmer, Hiram (12), Mary (10), and George (3/12 or 3 months old). It turns out that George was Lori's ancestor. The Newtons had two non-family members living in their household Elizabeth Gilmore (13) and James Young (22) who is also listed as a carpenter. This one little entry provides quite a bit of information. Hiram Newton was not only a carpenter, but he employed two other carpenters (and possibly others) in his business. He was also a Yankee surviving and apparently thriving in a border state.

In a biography of George Washington Newton from Perrin's *History of Kentucky*, we find out a few other pieces of information about the family. The entry indicates that George was the son of Hiram and Calline Kite Newton and that he was the twelfth of sixteen children. This sent up a red flag. The oldest female in the Newton household in 1860 was named Caroline. It is not unusual for the

census taker to have misspelled names, but I also noticed that she was only 31 and the next oldest child was James at 23; it didn't add up. It appeared that Caroline was probably the oldest daughter, or the census taker could possibly have also written down her age wrong or she could have provided false information. I could see how the census taker might get Caroline out of Calline. However it didn't appear that a 31 year old could already have 12 children, although it would not be completely impossible.

The biography further related that both parents died of the flux in 1865 within one week of each other. George was sent to live with an aunt, Martha Smith, of Hardin County. He lived with her until 1869 when she died. At that point he moved to Bowling Green and lived with his brothers as he attended college. Apparently his health was not good and was sent to the country to work on a farm. In 1880 he moved to Cromwell and established a pharmacy and married a local girl, Souri Tilford, the daughter of W.G. Tilford. The biography also states that Calline Kite Newton was born in 1810 in Warren County. This cleared up the issue about Caroline, she appeared to be Hiram's unmarried daughter in 1860; Calline would have been 50. Why wasn't Calline listed as part of the household? Some things we can't explain.



Pretty Church Wedding At High Noon Today

(Editor's note: It's always fun to marry a photograph to a letter, personal journal entry, or a newspaper article. This photo of the wedding of Arline Perkins and Samuel Rawlins was donated to the Kentucky Library by Ruth Hines Temple. The wedding took place on May 10, 1928 at the Cumberland Presbyterian Church. Below is the newspaper report of the nuptial exchange.)

Amid the lovely setting of ferns and autumn leaves enhanced by the soft glow of candle light, the wedding of Miss Arline McLean Perkins and Samuel Perry Rawlins was solemnized at twelve o'clock noon today at the Cumberland Presbyterian Church.

The Rev. Thomas A. DeVore said the ceremony using the impressive Episcopal ring service.

The church was beautiful with its decorations of autumn leaves and ferns. The altar was banked with ferns and leaves interspersed with cathedral candles in brass candelabra. The pews were marked with yellow pompons and bows of tulle.

Preceding the ceremony Lawrence Duncan played on the violin "Melody of Love." Miss Margaret DeVore sang "Because." Mr. Duncan played "To Spring", and Mrs. J.A. Diennes sang "I Love You Truly." Miss Edith Rawlins, sister of the bride-groom played the piano. Lohengrin's wedding march was played as the bridal party entered the church. During the ceremony, Miss Rawlins and Mr. Duncan played "To A Wild Rose" by MacDowell. Mendelssohn's wedding march was played as a recessional.

The ushers, Herbert Moltenberry, Earl Venable, Maury Cowles and Ernie Bloodworth entered first. The bridesmaids followed, entering singly, and forming a semi-circle at the altar.

The maid wore attractive taffeta and lace frocks fashioned after a French model: Miss Margaret DeVore in honeydew; Miss Ada Rawlins, sister of the groom, in sunburst; Miss Ruth Hines Temple in tangerine; Miss Katherine McGinnis in autumn brown. They wore

brown tulle hats and brown satin slippers and carried arm bouquets of yellow chrysanthemums and pompons tied with wide green metalline ribbon.

Miss Alice Bryan Braswell of Brattleboro, North Carolina, schoolmate of the bride, was maid of honor. She wore a beautiful imported model of fuschia crepe Elizabeth with a violet picture hat fashioned with folds of taffeta and trimmed with a single flower. She carried an arm bouquet of Russell roses and Parma violets ties with purple tulle. Following her were the little flower girls, Virginia Earl Venable and Nell Johnson, in ruffled peach-colored taffeta dresses. Their flowers were French bouquets of rosebuds, lavender pompons and sweet alyssum.

The bride entered on the arm of R.C. Blodgett, her step-father, by whom she was given in marriage.

She was beautiful in her wedding gown of white crepe satin designed with a bodice and long sleeves and circular skirt. The gown was beaded with rhinestone baskets which were filled with white satin roses. Her tulle veil was attached to an orange blossom coronet and was caught with sprays of the blossoms. She carried a shower bouquet of bride's roses and lilies of the valley. The bride was met at the altar by the groom and B.E. Lindsey of Lake City, Fla., who served as best man.

The ceremony was followed by a reception at the home of the bride's parents, 1244 Park Street.

The house decoration was Russell

roses and ferns.

The center piece for the bridal table was a beautifully decorated wedding cake surrounded by white tapers and crystal candle sticks.

Seated at the bridal table were the members of the bridal party.

Mrs. R.C. Blodgett, mother of the bride, wore a gown of henna crepe romaine.

Mrs. E.J. Kellis, grandmother of the bride, wore black satin.

Mrs. H.E. Rawlins, mother of the groom wore an attractive black satin trimmed with grey fur trimmings.

Mr. and Mrs. Rawlins left immediately on a motor trip to Nashville, Chattanooga, and Birmingham and will be home in Harrisburg, Illinois after Nov. 10.

For her traveling costume, the bride wore a brown satin frock with a coat to match and a close fitting brown hat.

Mrs. Rawlins is the only daughter of Mrs. R.C. Blodgett and is a very talented young lady. She was educated in the city schools, Teachers' College and Gunston Hal, Washington, D.C.

Mr. Rawlins is a graduate of the Bowling Green Business University and is a prominent public accountant with offices in Harrisburg, Illinois.

Out of town guests for the wedding included: Mr. and Mrs. H.E. Rawlins, Harrisburg, Ill., Misses Edith and Ada Rawlins, Harrisburg, Ill., Miss Alice Bryan Braswell, Brattleboro, N.C. and B.E. Lindsey, Lake City, Fla., and Eugene Benedict, Nashville, Tenn.



History & Inspection of Warren County Poor Farm, 1938

In an interview with Esquire Virgil Cox, (the oldest resident of the county and 90 years of age) he states that to the best of his memory when the original county was formed, 1797, a plot of ground consisting of some 165 acres, located on the north side of Barren River, near Bowling Green, was set aside for the purpose of taking care of the poor and needy of the county. Contributions for its upkeep were made by the various farmers and planters of the county in the form of donations, such as sides of meat, one or more bushels of corn, wheat, meal, potatoes, etc. This property was retained by the county for the purpose mentioned subject, of course, to various changes in the improvements thereon, until 1872 when it was used as part payment on the present County Farm which is located some twelve miles from Bowling Green near the town of Woodburn, Kentucky.

When originally purchased the present county farm consisted of 236 1/2 acres but sales and purchases since that time have reduced the acreage to some 125 acres. The land is very fertile and is tilled by the inmates of the home under the supervision of the Head Keeper and his assistant. The grounds immediately surrounding the buildings are well kept and the lawn is supplied with flowerbeds and shrubs. The improvements on the farm were inspected by the writer on October 28, 1938 and consist of a large two-story, brick residence occupied by the Head Keeper and his family—Mr. C.A. Spaulding; a four room, frame cottage which is the residence of the Assistant Keeper, Mr. George Woolbright and his family. Mr. Woolbright also acts in the capacity of farm foreman, while his wife has charge of the kitchen for the inmates.

The plant itself, consists of two rambling bunk-houses, containing sixteen rooms and four baths. Two of these rooms are equipped for hospital purposes, one room for male and one for female patients. An adequate dispensary is maintained in connection

with these two rooms. The inspection disclosed that all of the sleeping and living rooms are neat and comfortable and the inmates apparently well treated. A laundry is maintained at the Home and the linens appeared to be clean and sanitary. The dining room and kitchen were neat and sufficiently supplied with dishes and cooking utensils. A large concrete basement under the bunk-houses is fully stocked with provisions.

The entire plant is lighted with electricity and the rooms, with the exception of four, are steam heated by an American Radiator furnace, with automatic stoker which maintains a uniform heat of 70. The four rooms not so heated are supplied with gas stoves. Hot and cold running water is available to the inmates through the facilities of a Deeming electric engine and Deeming water pump which are located in a separate building some fifty yards from the main buildings. Some fire protection is afforded by a fifty barrel water tank. One other separate building located in the rear of the living quarters is known as the "Dead House" where the bodies of the departed await the undertaker.

The inmates at the time of the inspection number thirty-five, of whom twenty-four are white males, nine white

females and two colored males.

The hospital rooms, while very inadequate, are kept clean and orderly and Dr. F. London of Woodburn is the attending physician.

The superintendent of the farm—Magistrate John VanMeter—lives at his home near Rockfield. He is employed by the year and receives \$150.00 annually for his services. The Head Keeper's salary is \$60.00 per month and he is employed by the month. The Assistant Keeper receives a salary of \$35.00 per month, as does his wife as supervisor of the kitchen. The Head Keeper and Assistant Keeper and their families, of course, are furnished with free board and lodging. The Superintendent and Head Keeper are elected by the Fiscal Court, and the Assistant Keeper is employed by the Head Keeper. All salaries, however, are paid by the county. (*)

**The above information was secured through the splendid cooperation of County Judge, G. Duncan Milliken, Jr., Esquire Leslie White, County Court Clerk, George Potter, Circuit Clerk, S.C. Lawson, former Magistrate Alex Smith, Head Keeper, C.A. Spaulding and by means of a personal inspection of the plant and grounds by the writer. The poor farm is no longer in existence.*



Perhaps you could pass this newsletter along to someone you think would be interested in supporting Landmark's efforts in historic preservation advocacy.

I (we) want to support the Historic Preservation efforts in Bowling Green and Warren County.

Name _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____ E-mail _____

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|--|---|---------------------------------------|---|
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I have enclosed \$_____ to support the Irene Moss Sumpter Preservation Endowment Fund.

Checks should be payable to:

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P.O. Box 1812
Bowling Green, KY 42102-1812

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